

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7182

BILL NUMBER: SB 324

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 4, 2005

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Geologist Licensing.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Server

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill allows geologists to form professional corporations. It redefines "geology" and "public practice of geology" in the geologist licensing statute. It provides that failure to pay a renewal fee for a licensed professional geologist results in suspension of the license. The bill also makes conforming changes. It repeals a statute defining "survey" as the geological survey.

Effective Date: July 1, 2005.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues: The Indiana Board for Licensure of Professional Geologists is a freestanding board and the licenses it issues are self-supporting. Currently, the Board charges an application fee of \$70 and a renewal fee of \$60 every three years for a professional geologist license. The bill expands the definition of performing the public practice of geology and removes the exemption from licensure for professional engineers. These provisions could lead to additional licenses being issued.

This bill also provides that one or more geologist professionals may form a professional corporation to render services that may legally be performed only by a geological professional. The Secretary of State requires that an articles of incorporation document be filed for each for-profit corporation established in Indiana. The document processing fee is \$90. Corporations are also required to file biennial reports (\$30 fee). The above provision may increase fee revenue, which is deposited in the state General Fund.

Penalty Provision: The bill would make it a violation to falsely represent oneself as a licensed geologist in

training. The penalty is a Class B misdemeanor. If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund (from fines) and the state General Fund (from court fees) would increase. The maximum fine for a Class B misdemeanor is \$1,000. However, any additional revenue would likely be small.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Penalty Provision:* A Class B misdemeanor is punishable by up to 180 days in jail.

Explanation of Local Revenues: *Penalty Provision:* If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from court fees. However, any change in revenue would likely be small.

State Agencies Affected: Secretary of State.

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

Information Sources: Amanda Wilson, Board of Licensure for Professional Geologists, (812) 855-7636; Secretary of State website: www.in.gov/sos.

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